

Resources MIT Invests In Area 4 Community Organizations

MIT has enjoyed a long and productive relationship with a number of neighborhood organizations in Cambridge's Area 4. For more than 30 years, we have provided significant funding and other resources to agencies such as Tutoring Plus, the Community Arts Center, the Algebra Project, Margaret Fuller House, and Just A Start. Through ways like the MIT Community Service Fund, the Kendall Community Group, and our affiliation with the Moses Kimball Fund, MIT makes steady financial contributions to multiple organizations. The following represents a partial yet not necessarily exhaustive list of MIT activities in the neighborhood:

- ***Tutoring Plus***

Tutoring Plus has received regular financial support from MIT since its founding in 1964 with the assistance of the MIT Social Service Committee. Each year, students from MIT's undergraduate and graduate programs make up 20-30% of Tutoring Plus's active volunteers. An MIT staff member serves on the agency's Board of Directors.

- ***The Community Arts Center***

For decades, the MIT Community Service Fund has supported the Arts Center's various childcare, after school, and teen media programs. For two years running, the MIT Media Lab has hosted the Arts Center's major, nationally recognized teen film and video festival.

- ***Kendall Community Group***

MIT's founding role in the Kendall Community Group, in 1987, helps leverage annual contributions from area businesses for the Margaret Fuller House, the Community Arts Center, and Tutoring Plus. The Kendall Community Group builds upon relationships between corporations in the Kendall Square vicinity and these three Area 4 organizations through monthly meetings with agency directors and informal discussions about areas of mutual interest.

- ***The Algebra Project***

The Institute is providing operational funding and classroom space for the Summer Math Institute of the Algebra Project, a mathematics literacy effort aimed at helping students in Cambridge schools successfully achieve mathematical skills that are a prerequisite in today's technological society. For the past two years, MIT has hosted at Kresge Auditorium the Algebra Project's major annual fundraiser, a benefit concert for 1,000 middle school students given by the a cappella group Sweet Honey In The Rock.

- ***Just A Start***

MIT's strong support for Just A Start has assisted this agency with home improvement programs and landlord-tenant mediation within Area 4. Just A Start maintains three "Youth Build" sites in the neighborhood. This agency, which began with the help of the MIT Community Service Fund in 1968, is responsible for more than 50 units of below market rental housing in Area 4.

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- ***Other***

A group of graduate students from MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning organized and conducted an Area 4 Youth Fair in September 2000.

The Area 4 Youth Center received recognition and an honorarium from MIT at the June 2001 Cambridge First Day Celebration sponsored by MIT and the City of Cambridge.

The Institute periodically hosts a variety of athletic events such as track meets, gymnastic activities, and volleyball tournaments that benefit Cambridge children, including those in Area 4.

The MIT Community Service Fund provides financial support to Project Manna, an outreach program for the homeless and hungry operated out of the Massachusetts Avenue Baptist Church at 146 Hampshire Street.

In all of these community relationships, MIT endeavors to promote an open door policy with respect to facility use, involvement on local boards of directors, and other resources as requested.